

COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN (NQS)

RESOURCE CATEGORY	Communications
RESOURCE KIND	Personnel
OVERALL FUNCTION	The Communications Technician (COMT) maintains and repairs communications equipment
COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. This position can be ordered as a single resource.2. Discuss logistics for deploying this position, such as security, lodging, transportation, and meals, prior to deployment3. This position typically works 12 hours per shift, is self-sustainable for 72 hours, and is deployable for up to 14 days4. Requestor may specify any additional qualifications necessary based on incident complexity and needs

Each type of resource builds on the qualifications of the type below it. For example, Type 1 qualifications include the qualifications in Type 2, plus an increase in capability. Type 1 is the highest qualification level.

Position Qualification for Operational Communications Communications

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	NOTES
DESCRIPTION	<p>Same as Type 2, PLUS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gathers specifications and tests existing land mobile radio (LMR) functionality in incident area, including multiple systems for multiple jurisdictions 2. Gives status of existing system, protocols, and procedures in state or regional interoperable communications plan and Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) 3. Drafts initial incident communications plan in conjunction with Communications Unit Leader (COML) 4. Designs and engineers backhaul of disparate jurisdictional communications systems to point of convergence at interoperable communications switch or devices 5. Provides redundant LMR, voice, and data communications between all incident facilities 6. Deploys multiple staging areas for portable and mobile communications devices, to serve a wide incident area and a large number of operational personnel 	<p>Same as Type 3, PLUS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gathers specifications and tests existing LMR functionality in incident area 2. Assesses, through surveys and live testing, whether existing systems are fully operational and have coverage and capacity to meet incident objectives 3. Disseminates information on frequencies, platforms, talk groups, call signs, encryption, and code plugs to dispatched personnel 4. Identifies existing interoperability options and installs, configures, and programs interoperable communications devices to establish common operational and command channels, as the Incident Commander (IC) or COML requests 5. Stabilizes and secures existing LMR facilities serving the incident, including provision of reliable power supply, and approves minor repairs to equipment and antennas 6. Establishes voice and data communications between all incident facilities, including command center, staging, bases, air operations, and camps 7. Orders communications lines, wireless backhaul, or repeater systems 8. Deploys staging area for portable and mobile communications devices, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Logistics and procedures from inventory control b. Program and configuration of equipment c. Quality assurance and voice checks d. Basic preventive maintenance and basic part repairs e. Quick operational training <p>(Continued)</p>	<p>The COMT:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Installs and tests communications equipment 2. Configures equipment to the needs of the incident 3. Distributes communications equipment to incident personnel 4. Maintains and repairs communications equipment 5. Identifies and specifies the need for additional infrastructure to support communications 	Not Specified

Position Qualification for Operational Communications Communications

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	NOTES
DESCRIPTION		(Continued) f. Battery swap-out and replacement 9. Specifies, orders, and installs all other communications services, including commercial cellular devices, land lines, tip lines, wired and wireless local area networks, internet and enterprise server connection, video and television services, and other communications services as requested through incident command		
EDUCATION	Same as Type 2	Training in radio engineering, information systems, or similar field OR post-secondary technical education in communications or wireless equipment installation or similar field, including equivalent training received through military service	Not Specified	Not Specified
TRAINING	Same as Type 2, PLUS: Training specializing in multiple standards or platforms of LMR equipment, wireless electronics, or network switching equipment	Same as Type 3, PLUS: Training specializing in one standard or platform of LMR equipment, wireless electronics, or network switching equipment	Completion of the following: 1. IS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS-100 2. IS-700: National Incident Management System, An Introduction	Not Specified
EXPERIENCE	Same as Type 2, PLUS: 1. Successful completion of the National Qualification System (NQS) Position Task Book (PTB) for the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Type 1 Communications Technician, or equivalent Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) documentation 2. Technical experience with LMR, operational mission-critical first responder communications, or communications systems management, including accountability for emergency communications policies and procedures	Same as Type 3, PLUS: 1. Successful completion of the NQS PTB for the NIMS Type 2 Communications Technician, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Technical experience with LMR, operational mission-critical first responder communications, or communications systems	1. Successful completion of the NQS PTB for the NIMS Type 3 Communications Technician, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Experience with LMR, operational mission-critical first responder communications, or communications systems	Not Specified
PHYSICAL/MEDICAL FITNESS	Same as Type 2	Same as Type 3	Performs duties under moderate circumstances characterized by working consecutive 12-hour days under physical and emotional stress for sustained periods	Not Specified

Position Qualification for Operational Communications
Communications

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	NOTES
CURRENCY	Same as Type 2	Functions in this position during an operational incident, exercise, drill, or simulation at least once every three years	Functions in this position during an operational incident, exercise, drill, or simulation at least once every five years	Not Specified
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified	Not Specified

NOTES

Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated category.

REFERENCES

1. FEMA, National Qualification System (NQS) Position Task Book for Communications Technician, latest edition adopted
2. FEMA, NIMS 509: Communications Unit Leader
3. FEMA, NIMS 509: Incident Commander
4. FEMA, National Incident Management System (NIMS), October 2017
5. FEMA, NIMS Guideline for the NQS, November 2017
6. FEMA, National Response Framework, June 2016